

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01972 102122Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /071 W

-----110538Z 112719 /11

R 102030Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3801

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1972

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM PINT CI

SUBJECT: THE DISAPPEARED: CHILEAN GOVERNMENT OVERREACTS TO
PETITION

REF: SANTIAGO 0821

1. SUMMARY: IN A TOUGH STATEMENT MARCH 8, THE GOC CON-
TENDED THAT A PETITION TO THE SUPREME COURT REGARDING
501 MISSING PERSONS, TOGETHER WITH ALLEGEDLY DISTORTED
WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF THE EVENT, AGAIN DEMONSTRATED A
CONTINUING MARXIST-ORCHESTRATED INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN
AGAINST CHILE. THE GOC PROMISED TO TAKE ALL MEASURES
NECESSARY TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY FROM SUCH LURKING DANGERS.
WHILE PRESENTATION OF THE PETITION CLEARLY WAS TIMED
FOR UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES, THE GOC'S
REACTION PROBABLY PLAYED INTO THE HANDS OF ITS FOES.
THIS HARD LINE, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE ARREST OF SOME ALLEGED
LEFTIST TERRORISTS (SEE MIR SEPTTEL), MAY BE INTENDED
TO JUSTIFY CONTINUED RULE BY EMERGENCY POWER -- DUE TO
EXPIRE MARCH 11. END SUMMARY.

2. SOME 1,758 PEOPLE AVAILED THEMSELVES OF THEIR RIGHT,
RECENTLY REAFFIRMED IN THE JUNTA'S CONSTITUTIONAL ACT.
NO. THREE, TO PETITION THE SUPREME COURT. THEIR PETITION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 01972 102122Z

BRIEFLY. BUT CONTENTIOUSLY, REVIEWED PAST EFFORTS TO
CLARIFY THE FATE OF 501 PERSONS WHO HAD DISAPPEARED
UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES SINCE THE 1973 COUP.
SPECIFICALLY, THEY REQUESTED THE COURT'S PRESIDENT
TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT THAT THIS UNRESOLVED QUESTION
HAD AROUSED DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CONCERN; THAT
HE ASK THE JUNTA TO MAKE PUBLIC THE RESULTS OF WHATEVER

INVESTIGATIONS THE GOC HAD CONDUCTED TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION OF THE MISSING; AND THAT HE TRANSMIT TO THE GOVERNMENT THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE COURT ON THE PERSONS LISTED.

3. THE 501 CASES SEEM TO INCLUDE MOST OF THE 415 ALREADY SUBMITTED TO THE COURT BY THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY. (WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE VICARIATE IS ALSO PREPARING A GLOBAL LIST OF SOME 800 NAMES WHICH IT PLANS TO SEND TO THE UN AND OAS SOON -- THE CURRENT PETITION APPEARS TO BE AN INDEPENDENT EFFORT.)

4. THE GOC'S SPOKESMAN SAID MARCH 8 THAT HIS STATEMENT WAS PROMPTED BY DISTORTED WIRE SERVICE STORIES AS WELL AS THE TIMING OF THE PETITION AND ITS ACCUSATIONS. (THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES ALLEGEDLY REPORTED THAT MORE THAN A HUNDRED WOMEN JAMMED THE COURT AT THE TIME OF PRESENTATION.) THESE FACTORS, THE GOC SAID, CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THE MARXISTS' ABILITY TO MANIPULATE PEOPLE, AND SHOW THAT THE COUNTRY IS "NOT PREPARED FOR THE JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL MNORMALITY WHICH SOME WISH." INDEED, IT SHOWS THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE COUNTRY IS COMPLETELY JUSTIFIED BY "THIS THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER." IT ASSERTED THAT ENEMIES OF THE REGIME STAGE EVENTS TO DISCREDIT THE GOC WHENEVER THE UN OR ITS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETS, SO AS TO INVOLVE FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN CHILEAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, IMPOSE ECONOMIC BLOCKADES AND ISOLATE CHILE INTERNATIONALLY. BUT THE GOC INFLEXIBLY AND UNHESITANTLY "WILL TAKE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 01972 102122Z

WHATEVER MEASURES ARE NEEDED TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY..."

5. COMMENT: IN REFTTEL THE EMBASSY DESCRIBED THE WEB OF MOTIVATIONS AMONG THE FAMILIES OF THE MISSING PERSONS. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE CURRENT PETITION WAS TIMED AS MUCH FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE AS FOR ITS DOMESTIC IMPACT. FOR EXAMPLE, IT RECALLS PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S 1975 PLEDGE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NEVER FULFILLED, TO CONDUCT AN EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION INTO THE CASE OF "THE 119."

6. WE NOTE THAT ACCUMULATING CLOSE TO 2,000 SIGNATURES FOR SUCH A PETITION IS QUITE A FEAT IN TODAY'S CHILE, AND THAT THE NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS -- INCLUDING SEVERAL US RESIDENT IN CHILE -- REFLECTS WIDESPREAD CONCERN BY THE LOWER LEVELS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN PARTICULAR.

7. THE PROVOCATIVE NATURE OF THE PETITION NOTWITHSTANDING, THE GOC'S BLISTERING RESPONSE WILL NOT

HELP ITS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OR ATTENUATE DOMESTIC
TENSIONS. THE LATEST EXTENSION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE
EXPIRES MARCH 11. THE GOC MAY BE PRIMARILY INTERESTED
IN SHOWING THAT THIS "THREAT" TO INTERNAL ORDER
JUSTIFIES CONTINUING EMERGENCY RULE.
POPPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ALLEGATIONS, MISSING PERSONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTIA01972
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770083-1134
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770373/aaaacmdi.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8cf73dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SANTIAGO 821
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3149359
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE DISAPPEARED: CHILEAN GOVERNMENT OVERREACTS TO PETITION
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8cf73dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009